

THE REDNOCK REVIEW

Term 2 – 2025/26

12th December 2025

Dear Rednock Community,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you at the close of Term 2, as we prepare to embrace the Christmas holiday.

What a wonderfully festive edition of the Rednock Review we have for you! It has been truly inspiring to see the activities and achievements our students and staff have been involved in this term. I encourage you to take the time to explore the many exciting events that have taken place.

This has undoubtedly been a busy and fulfilling term for our school community, and the holiday break has arrived at just the right moment for our students (and staff!) who are in need of rest, recharge, and to spend time with those closest to them.

Looking ahead, I would like to remind you that students will return to school on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**. I wrote to you last week with full details, which can be found via [this link](#). Please ensure that your child returns in full school uniform and equipped with everything they need to learn effectively. Students should be prepared for lessons on **Tuesday, Week B**.

The festive season holds different meanings for each of us. For me, it is a time for family, friends, and loved ones. A chance to pause, reflect, and appreciate all that I am grateful for.



[Click here to view](#)
[a video from](#)
[Mr Stratford](#)

It is also a precious opportunity to spend time with my own children, a time I truly cherish. Given that many of our GCSE English students are currently studying A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, and have enjoyed seeing the production in Cirencester over recent weeks, it feels fitting to share a quote from the novel that captures this:

"I have always thought of Christmas time... as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time."

Whatever Christmas means to you, and however you choose to celebrate, on behalf of all the staff at Rednock School, I wish you and your families a restful, safe, and happy holiday.

My very best wishes, and a [very Merry Christmas](#),

Mike Stratford
Headteacher



Rednock School
Where everyone matters



Achievement Heroes

Each week, we select new Achievement Heroes to celebrate. We've had some amazing nominees and we're proud of everything they've accomplished. They were recognised for different reasons, each one just as impressive as the last. Every nominee exemplifies what it means to be an Achievement Hero and we couldn't be prouder to shine a spotlight on their accomplishments.

This issue's Achievement Heroes are:

Henry, for achieving 2 badges, having 100% attendance and 195 achievement points.

Emily, for her unwavering hard work in her studies.

Poppy, for the great work she's doing and the resilience she has shown along the way.

Katelyn, being voted player of the match by the opposition in the U13 National cup football match.

Joe, for receiving the highest number of reward points in Jenner last week.

Mia, for her fantastic public speaking (again!) at both Maidenhill School and our Sixth Form Open Evening.

Murray, for playing his guitar so brilliantly for students and parents at our Sixth Form Open Evening.

Belle, for being such a positive member of the community and always having a smile on her face.

Harrison, for receiving the highest number of reward points in Darwin last week.

Ani, for fundraising for McMillan Cancer by walking 100km.

Daisy, for being an amazing Community Captain who persistently cheers up the people around her.

Ria, for having 100% attendance (this is a random selection from all who still have 100% attendance).

Grace, for getting the highest word count in her Reading for Power class for November.

Rosie, for showing genuine care to a staff member after some upsetting news.

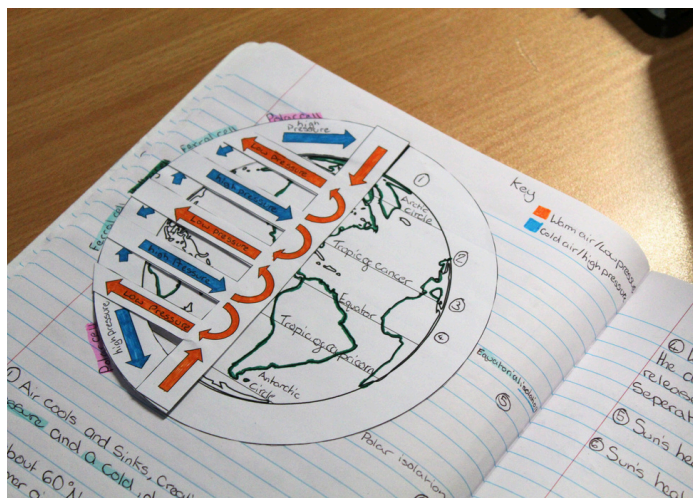


Christmas Card Competition

Our annual Christmas Card Competition brought a wonderful range of creative and colourful entries submitted by students across the school. From traditional winter scenes to imaginative modern designs, the standard was exceptionally high and made judging a real challenge.

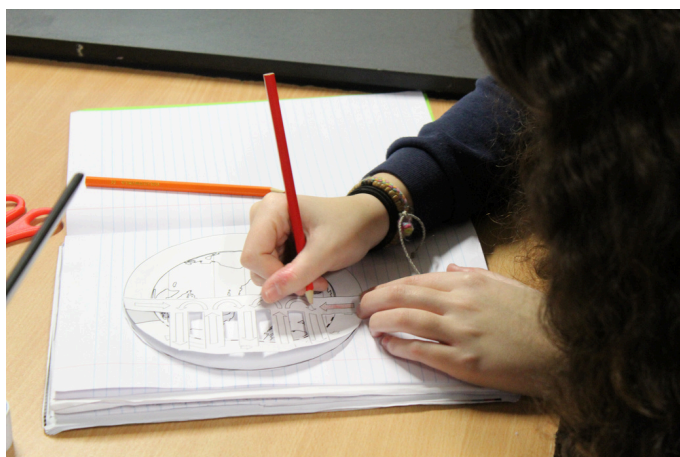
After careful consideration, the judges were delighted to announce that Safia, Year 9, was the overall winner. Safia's design (left) has been used as our official Christmas card for the year. This is a fantastic achievement and something Safia should be very proud of.

A big thank you goes to everyone who took part in the competition and helped spread festive joy through their artwork.



Teaching and Learning Focus – Learning in Action

Year 10 Geography students have started their module on Weather Hazards, but before investigating the causes and impacts of extreme weather events like hurricanes the students need an understanding of what controls climates and weather conditions around the world. Studying global atmospheric circulation is quite complex, but making 3D models of it can help to make the processes more visible and understandable. Giving it a recognisable spatial base helps too. And it wouldn't be Geography if we weren't 'colouring in' would it!?





Community Challenge

Our Sixth Form Student Community Leaders took charge of the recent Community Challenge, designing and leading a fun activity for all year groups. Students worked together in their community teams to recreate a variety of shapes based on images shown on the screen—with points awarded to the groups whose formations were the closest match. The challenges ranged from stars, to slithery snakes to full roast dinners, sparking plenty of creativity and laughter. It was a fantastic afternoon of teamwork and fun, and congratulations go to Darwin, who topped the leaderboard with an impressive 35 points!



Year 7 Rugby Training

The Year 7 rugby team concluded their final training session last week with a highly competitive 11-v-11 game. Throughout the year, the players have shown impressive commitment and enthusiasm, working hard in both training sessions and competitive fixtures. Their positive attitude and teamwork have been evident, making for an enjoyable and successful season.

The school would like to thank all players for their dedication and effort, as well as the parents and carers who have consistently supported the team by attending matches.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are looking forward to welcoming just as many students to football club, which will take place on Tuesday evenings from Tuesday 13th January.





Golden Ticket Assembly

Earlier this month saw our 3rd Golden Ticket Assembly and yet again it was an absolute joy to spend time celebrating some of our students along with their families.

Just over 50 students across all year groups were nominated this time to receive the Golden Ticket for their motivation. This was the IMatter value chosen.

It was lovely to see students really proud of their achievements, and rightly so. We were also privileged to listen to Poppy, a Year 11 student talk to us about how she has transformed her success and mindset with her own motivation to succeed. Elisa also shared her amazing singing voice, this time accompanied by her guitar that she is teaching herself. Both students were outstanding and really demonstrated what motivation can help you achieve.

We are already looking forward to the next one at the end of Term 4. Next time, we will be celebrating students' respect and kindness.





Year 11 Students Shine at Cam Christmas Light Switch-On

Year 11 students were busy spreading festive cheer at the Cam Christmas Light Switch-On, running a stall full of handmade tree decorations to raise funds for their prom. The students worked hard throughout the evening, engaging with the community and sharing their creativity.

In addition to the decorations, they offered face painting, which proved so popular that there was a queue all evening! Visitors were also able to pick up some reindeer food and hot chocolate sachets for Santa, adding to the festive spirit.

Fundraising for the prom helps the Year 11 students keep the cost of tickets as low as possible, ensuring that the event is affordable for everyone while still providing a memorable and special evening for the whole year group.



Fluffy Steals the Show

The recent AI Roadshow offered an engaging and insightful look at how artificial intelligence is transforming the world. One of the highlights was Fluffy, the AI-powered robot dog, whose adorable behaviour and lifelike responses wowed Year 8 students.

The presentation encouraged students to embrace AI with the same enthusiasm that made Google an everyday essential just a few years ago. Demonstrations showcased practical AI tools already in use, while emphasising the vital importance of human skills in guiding technology safely and effectively. A unique song was also produced using AI, shaped by ideas suggested by Year 8 students, blending their creativity with new technology. You can see a clip [here](#).

The team also explored digital safety, including how to spot deep fakes and demonstrated how AI can support teaching and learning in meaningful ways.

Packed with surprises, practical tips and the charm of Fluffy, the event promoted the safe and confident adoption of AI.



Celebrating Outstanding Oracy

We are incredibly proud to celebrate recent examples of outstanding oracy shown by our Year 11 students, who have demonstrated confidence, clarity and maturity when speaking to large audiences.

At our November Remembrance Service, Tyler (right) spoke in front of the entire school with great poise and respect, delivering a powerful contribution to this important occasion. More recently, Tyler also addressed a full audience of prospective students and parents at our Sixth Form Open Evening, speaking confidently and representing the school superbly.



Meanwhile, Poppy (Left) captivated students and staff alike at our Golden Ticket Assembly on the theme of motivation. Speaking beautifully and with genuine impact, Poppy's words inspired many and reflected a deep understanding of the message being shared.

Speaking in front of large audiences takes courage and skill at any age, but to do so with such confidence and professionalism at this stage of school is an exceptional achievement. Both students are a credit to themselves and to the school, and we are immensely proud of them.

Safeguarding Update: Top Tips for Keeping Children Safe Online

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we would like to remind families of the importance of regularly monitoring and discussing mobile phone and app use with young people. Recently, we have seen an increase in students accessing unsuitable apps and online platforms, such as Omegle, and sharing images or comments that they later regret.

Online spaces can change quickly, and what may seem harmless at first can carry significant risks. Open, regular conversations at home play a vital role in helping young people make safe and informed choices online.

Top Tips for Parents and Carers:

- Check your child's mobile phone and app usage regularly, including privacy settings and downloaded apps.
- Talk openly with your child about the apps they use and who they communicate with online.
- Remind them that images and messages shared online can be difficult or impossible to remove.
- Encourage your child to speak to a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable or unsure about anything they encounter online.

By staying informed, keeping communication open, and working together, we can help our young people navigate the online world more safely and confidently



Teacher Taster Day

Are you curious about what a career in teaching could look like? Whether you're a student, a graduate, or considering a career change, Rednock School invites you to explore the profession firsthand at our Teacher Taster Day on Thursday 12th February 2026.

This immersive day is designed to give you a genuine insight into life as a teacher and the routes into the profession. You'll have the opportunity to experience the school environment, observe lessons in action, and take part in practical activities that reflect the realities of teaching.

This event is ideal for anyone who is thinking about becoming a teacher and wants to gain clarity, confidence, and first-hand experience before taking the next step.

Are you interested in a career in teaching?

Join us on our

**TEACHER TASTER DAY ON
12TH FEB 2026**

For more information or to register your interest, email teachertasterday@rednockschool.org.uk



The day will involve:

- a tour of Rednock
- an insight into what teaching is like and an opportunity to ask any questions
- a talk with GITEP about what they offer and how training through a SCITT works, including interview advice
- lesson observations
- a lesson planning activity
- an opportunity to meet with current trainees and ECTs

Student Leadership Appreciation Evening

Leaf and Ground was filled with warmth, laughter and gratitude as students and staff gathered for the Student Leadership Appreciation Evening. The evening was dedicated to acknowledging the time, energy and passion that these students have given in service to their school community. Throughout the year, student leaders have taken on responsibilities that extend far beyond their academic studies - leading by example, supporting their peers, organising events, representing student voice and helping to shape a positive and inclusive school culture.





Winter Concert

The Winter Concert was a great success, celebrating the hard work and musical talent of students across all year groups. The evening brought together families, staff and friends for an enjoyable and festive performance.

Students performed with confidence and enthusiasm, clearly demonstrating the time and effort they had put into rehearsals. The programme included a variety of winter-themed and modern pieces and the audience response was extremely positive.

The morning after the show, the senior choir even had the energy to sing carols around the school for students and staff to enjoy.





Rednock - Operation Christmas Cards

Well done to the volunteers in Year 7 and Year 12 for their wonderful efforts in creating and writing Christmas cards for the residents of our local care homes. This thoughtful initiative was a fantastic example of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference, especially during the festive season.

The Year 12 students demonstrated excellent leadership skills by guiding and supporting the Year 7 students throughout the activity. It was inspiring to see older students working so positively with younger ones, creating a true sense of teamwork and community within our school.

One of our Year 12 students, Izzy Gunther-Price, kindly delivered the cards to her local care home, Henlow Court. Their reactions showed just how meaningful these simple gestures were and how much they were valued.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for giving their time and creativity to this project. Your kindness has helped spread Christmas joy beyond our school and into the wider community, reminding us all of the true spirit of the season.

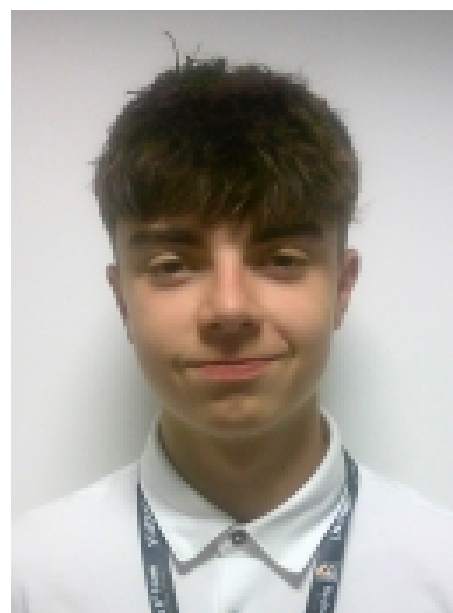


Under 18's Football

The Under 18 boys football team began their county cup campaign in impressive style with a hard-fought 4-2 victory against KLB. In a competitive and high-energy match, the team showed great determination and teamwork from the opening whistle through to the final moments.

A standout man of the match performance from Frazer (right) anchored the team's efforts, with his influence felt across the pitch. The attacking strength of the side was on full display, with goals coming from Bobby, Dan, Murray and Neo, highlighting the depth and balance within the squad.

This positive result provides the team with a strong foundation as they move forward in the competition and sets them up well for the remainder of the group games, which will take place in the new year.





Year 8 Netball

The Year 8 girls delivered an impressive performance this week, securing a hard-fought victory against Archway in what proved to be a thrilling contest from start to finish.

Both teams were evenly matched, with each quarter ending in a draw, keeping the tension high throughout the game. However, the determination and teamwork shown by the Year 8 squad paid off in the final moments, allowing them to edge ahead and claim a well-deserved 15-17 win.

It was a fantastic display of effort, resilience, and skill from the whole team.

Year 9 Netball Teams

The Year 9 A and B teams (below) travelled to Gloucester to take on St Peter's in a highly anticipated set of fixtures. Both teams demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout their matches.

The A team put in a strong performance but ultimately fell short against a well-organised St Peter's side, finishing with a 12-25 loss. Despite the result, the players showed real progress and resilience on court.

The B team enjoyed a successful outing, securing a confident 7-2 victory. Their solid defence and effective passing helped them maintain control of the game from start to finish.

Overall, it was a positive afternoon of netball, with both squads representing the school proudly.





Rugby Trip

15 of the students participating on the Gloucester Rugby Power Project visited Kingsholm Stadium for a guided tour last week. The students were also introduced to a current Gloucester Player, Jack Mann, who answered some interesting questions and gave the students a personal insight into matchday routines. The students toured the Lion's Den, stood in the Shed, visited the dressing room and were allowed into the state-of-the-art indoor training facilities. We were also given access to the Chairman's box, with its amazing views across the pitch and the rooftops of Gloucester. The students were also told about the many jobs involved within a professional sports set up. Thanks to Sam and Rhian for organising the tours and for Ms Hayward for accompanying us to Castle Grim. Perhaps the next time one of our students walks out of the tunnel they will be a professional player or coach themselves!!

The 28 students who have participated on this first Power Project have nearly successfully completed all their modules and training. The Gloucester coaches have been very impressed with the attitudes and efforts made and will return for a new cohort after Christmas. Thanks to all those involved.

Mr McCarthy GRPP Link





Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day was a great success, bringing everyone together in festive spirit while raising money for the James Hopkins Trust. Staff and students proudly wore their colourful, festive jumpers.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and support, the event raised valuable funds to help the James Hopkins Trust continue its important work supporting local children with life-limiting conditions and their families. It was a wonderful reminder of how coming together for such a cause can make a real difference.



Christmas Feast

Students thoroughly enjoyed a festive Christmas feast this week, with a wonderful meal provided by Innovate Catering. The dining hall was filled with Christmas tunes and Mrs Cole brought everyone together with an ambitious sing-a-long of The Twelve Days of Christmas.

It was a lovely occasion that gave students the chance to relax, enjoy each other's company and get into the festive spirit.

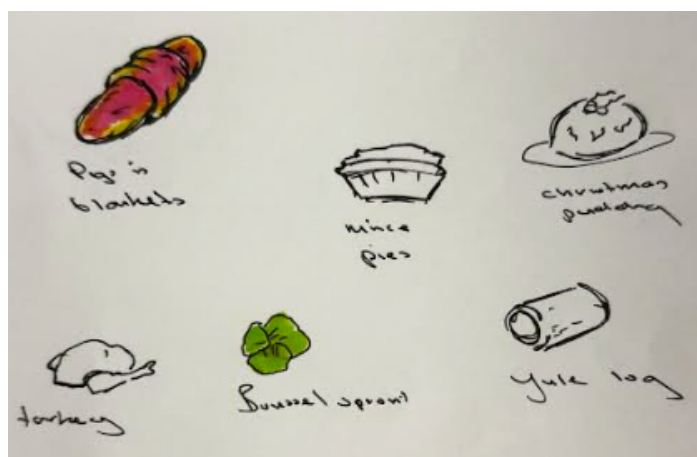
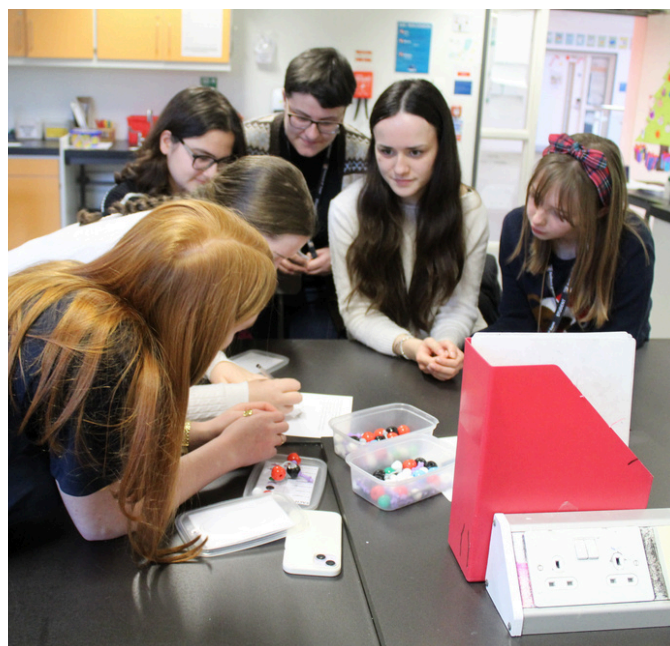




Chemistry Christmas Codebreaking Challenge

On Tuesday, our A Level Chemists took part in the annual Chemistry Christmas Codebreaking Challenge. The Year 12's and 13's went head-to-head to solve a series of complex challenges, using their expert knowledge of Chemistry, Christmas, and out-of-the-box thinking.

They worked brilliantly in their teams to solve Chemistry questions, book ciphers and tap codes, and to ultimately create a surprise Christmas card for Dr Cunningham that included a drawing of all of their answers to the puzzles. The Year 13's emerged victorious, but it was a sterling effort from the Year 12's who finished just moments behind. All efforts were rewarded with Chemistry pin badges and chocolate. Well done Chemists, and Merry Christmas!



Are you good at cracking codes?

Some of our students put their skills to the test in the GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2025 in science lessons this week. This national festive puzzle, created by the UK's intelligence experts, challenged participants with brainteasers in codebreaking, logic, and problem-solving – the same skills used in careers in cybersecurity and intelligence. Well done to everyone who took part! Think you've got what it takes?

Click the image below to give it go!





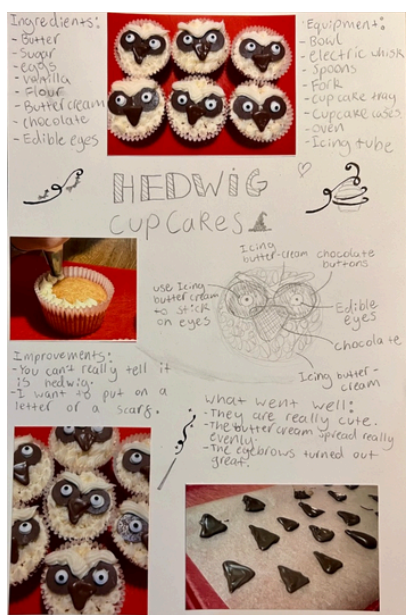
A Touch of Magic in the Kitchen

Year 7 students have truly brought a little Hogwarts magic into their homes with their recent Harry Potter-themed baking homework. Tasked with becoming “Hogwarts Pastry Designers,” pupils were challenged to design, plan and (where possible) bake a creative food product inspired by the Wizarding World.

The results were nothing short of spellbinding. From Golden Snitch cupcakes and Sorting Hat biscuits to Book of Monsters cakes and house-themed bakes, students demonstrated fantastic imagination and clear links to their chosen inspiration. Alongside their practical work, pupils produced thoughtful designs, ingredient and equipment plans, and reflective evaluations considering what went well and how they could improve next time.

What impressed us most was not just the creativity on display, but the maturity shown in planning, time management, and evaluation. Even students unable to bake at home produced detailed recipe cards and design work, ensuring everyone could access the task and showcase their skills.

This homework was a wonderful example of how learning can be practical, inclusive, and fun – and it certainly earned plenty of “house points” for creativity, effort and enthusiasm. Well done, Year 7 - Hogwarts would be proud! We look forward to our exciting trip to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter in the New Year!





Jólabókaflóð comes to Rednock

Through Reading for Power lessons in the LRC, Y7 and Y8 have been learning about a Christmas tradition in Iceland. The term Jólabókaflóð means 'Yule Book Flood'. Every Christmas Eve, Icelanders exchange and gift books to one another, and then spend the remainder of the evening reading, eating chocolate or drinking hot chocolate.

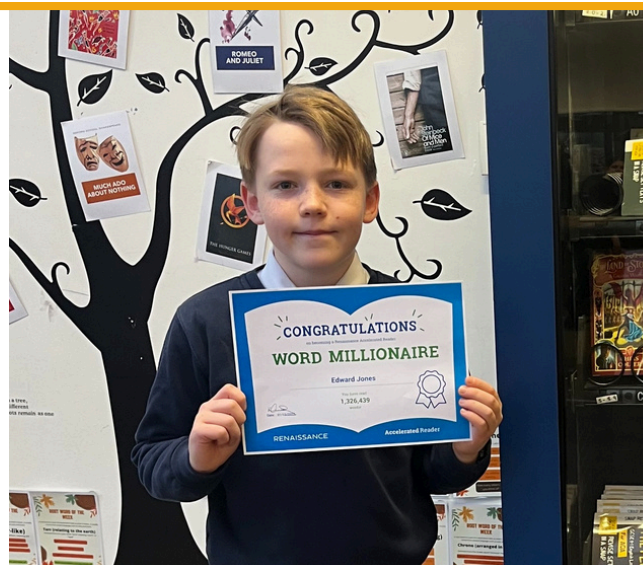
As part of our Book Buzz initiative, current Y7 students received their free book - our very own Jólabókaflóð!

All the books featured in this year's [Book Buzz](#) are now available to borrow from the LRC, so all students can enjoy them.



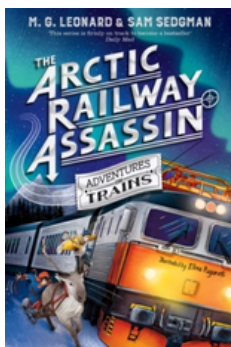
Word Millionaire

Congratulations to our second Word Millionaire of the year! Edward has achieved an incredible milestone by reading over 1 million words during his Reading for Power lessons. His dedication and love of reading have truly set an inspiring example for others to follow. For reaching this goal, Edward was gifted a token to use on the book vending machine where he could choose which book to read next. We are so proud of this achievement and can't wait to see how many more students will join the Word Millionaire club this year.



LRC Spotlight on... books with a winter theme.

Get wrapped up in a new adventure!





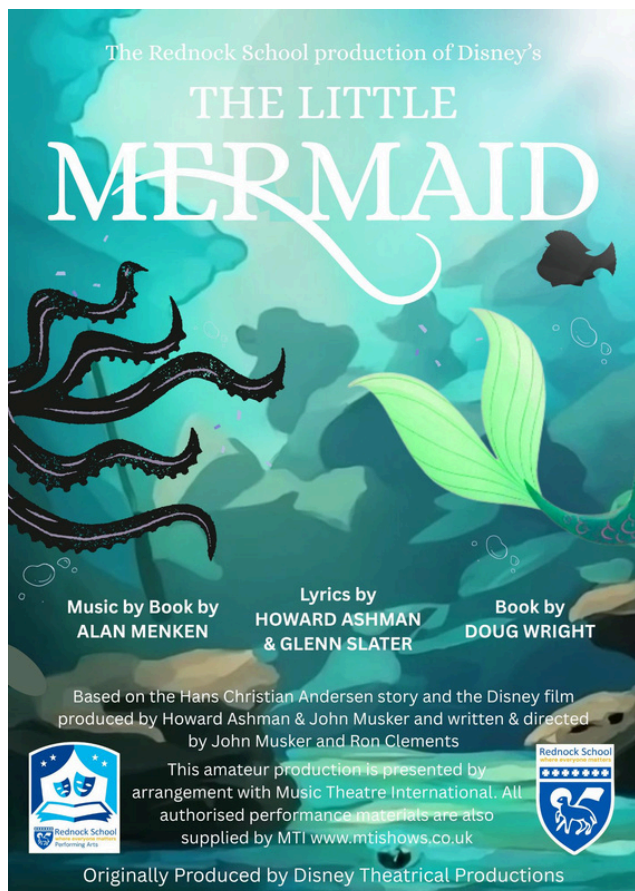
Year 7 Panto Trip – Bristol Hippodrome (Oh Yes It Was)

On 17th December, over 100 Year 7 students enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Bristol Hippodrome to watch the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. The students had a brilliant time and were a real credit to the school throughout the visit.

Their behaviour was exemplary from start to finish, and they engaged enthusiastically with the performance, fully embracing the fun and excitement of a traditional panto. Staff were incredibly proud of how well the students represented Rednock.

In fact, their conduct did not go unnoticed by others. Two members of the public were so impressed by our students that they kindly purchased five programmes and asked staff to pass them on to deserving students. This was a lovely and unexpected gesture, and a wonderful reminder of the positive impression our students make in the wider community.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and a fantastic way to celebrate the end of term, showcasing just how amazing our Year 7 students truly are.



The Little Mermaid Tickets

Exciting news! Tickets for the school production of The Little Mermaid are now on sale. Students, families and friends are invited to come and enjoy this magical performance, full of music and fun.

Show date can be seen below. Tickets can be purchased ParentPay or bought in person from the main reception. Be sure to get yours early as seats are limited and you won't want to miss this spectacular show!

Wed 18th March - 7.00pm

Thurs 19th March - 7.00pm

Fri 20th March - 7.00pm

Sat 21st March - 4.00pm

Careers Corner

Who's who in Careers?

All teachers are teachers of careers! Please do chat to your tutor, your subject teachers, your CLs and the Sixth Form team at any time.



Rednock School Careers
where everyone matters

Mr Sanders is Head of Life Skills and Careers - he can be contacted at william.sanders@rednockschool.org.uk or found in room 125.

Mr Justice is our independent careers advisor. He works Thursdays and Fridays and can be contacted at tim.justice@rednockschool.org.uk

Mrs Amato is the careers administrator. Contact her through the admin office to organise a careers interview appointment: admin@rednockschool.org.uk

Year 10 work Experience Launch

On Friday 12th December, Year 10 attended an assembly to launch work experience. This will be taking place 8-12th June 2026 and Unifrog has loads of handy guides to help with all stages of the process. Please have a conversation at home about possible placements. Students are expected to be proactive in finding a placement and this should begin this side of Christmas with contacting some employers.

[Click here to view the slides from the assembly.](#)



Victim Support - Youth Forum

Two Year 12 students recently took part in a youth forum organised by Victim Support, where they had the opportunity to share their views

and experiences. The forum was led by John from the charity, who facilitated discussion and encouraged young people to contribute their perspectives on issues affecting victims.

The students provided thoughtful and insightful feedback throughout the session and were praised for their maturity and engagement. Following the forum, Victim Support commented that the students were a real credit to the school.

Taking part in an event like this not only allows students to have their voices heard, but also helps them develop confidence, communication skills and civic awareness. It is a fantastic achievement and an excellent experience for them to include on their CVs.

Term 3 Life Skills lessons

In Term 3, students in Years 7-10 will be doing careers-specific lessons in Life Skills. Many of these lessons use Unifrog, our online destinations platform. Were you aware that the top 5 employment sectors in Gloucestershire are...?

1. Healthcare
2. Retail and wholesale
3. Manufacturing
4. Information and communication
5. Professional services e.g. legal and accounting



Pop-Up Pre-Loved Prom Outfit Event

We're jumping ahead to next year now, to announce our Pop-Up Pre-Loved Prom Outfit Event, taking place on 9th January. This special event is designed to help students find the perfect prom outfit in a sustainable, affordable and stress-free way.

The event is open to all students, and there is no

Preloved Prom Outfit Event

Save the date ...
JAN 9TH | 2026
 REDNOCK 6TH FORM COMMON ROOM
 FROM 3.10 PM

DROP IN TO BROWSE OUTFITS WE HAVE READY, GET FRESH IDEAS, OR SHARE YOUR OWN SO THE TEAM CAN HELP FIND YOUR PERFECT LOOK.

Donate ... WE ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS OF PRELOVED GOWNS & SUITS - DROP OFF INTO SCHOOL RECEPTION OR AT THIS EVENT.

pressure to buy - just come along, browse and get inspired. Our Pre-loved Uniform Team will be on hand to help with sizing and styling advice, making the experience enjoyable and welcoming for everyone. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to find a beautiful prom outfit, save money and make an environmentally friendly choice. We look forward to seeing you on 9th January!

If you have any clothing that would be suitable for our preloved prom collection please consider donating it. Any donations can be dropped off to main reception or brought along to this event in January.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
05/01/2026	All	INSET Day 4
06/01/2026	All	Start of Term 3 - Week B
08/01/2026	Year 11	Year 11 Parent Consultation Meetings (Virtual)
09/01/2026	Year 11	Preloved prom outfit event



Lost Property

Lost property will be laid out in the school reception for parents to view and collect items on 29th, 30th and 31st December, as well as 2nd January. Parents are encouraged to come along during these dates to check for any missing belongings before unclaimed items are cleared.



Christmas Tree Recycling



In Partnership with Just Helping

Collections 10th -13th January
Registration Closes 6th January



Take the hassle out of disposing of your Christmas tree and have Longfield collect it for a voluntary donation. *

You will not only be helping reduce your carbon footprint but also supporting your community hospice providing Hospice at Home care and Wellbeing, Counselling and Bereavement Support for individuals facing a life-limiting condition.



*After costs, over 80% of monies raised will go to Longfield Community Hospice with around 13% going to Just Helping charity and over 5% to other local charities.

just-helping.org.uk/register-tree
Registered Charity Number 298627



Quarry Collective Art Group

weekly group for young people 11-18 yrs
Tues 6th Jan 4.30-6pm
The Quarry Chapel, The Quarry, Cam, GL11 5NT



Led by the two Abi's, local artists with a passion for sharing! They will encourage experimentation through materials and process, to be spontaneous and inquisitive without the worry of finish or perfection.

Our aim is to deliver fun sessions where everyone is valued.

The group will help with confidence and understanding of a variety of art and craft techniques - drawing/mark making, printmaking, paint, mixed media, collage and 3D approaches. Refreshments and fun chat makes for a great weekly group!
This term includes ink& collage notebook cover, mono printing, silk painting, watercolour and clay work!

This course is designed for 11+ 4.30-6pm Subsidised 6wk course £36/30
Limited to 10 places - book: www.quarrychapel.org.uk